

Message Text

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21

ACTION CU-04

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 ISO-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /017 W

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R 040605Z MAR 76

FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO USIA WASHDC

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7642

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

AMCONSUL SYDNEY

AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

AMCONSUL PERTH

CINCPAC

UNCLAS CANBERRA 1714

USIAC

EO 11652: NA

SUBJ: WEEKLY HIGHLIGHTS

ATMOSPHERICS

AUSTRALIA'S DOMESTIC POLITICAL FUED -- OVER THE ACCUSATION IRAQUI MONEY WAS OR WAS NOT OFFERED AND/OR GIVEN, CONTINUED TO HOLD THE PRIME POSITION IN THE MEDIA. THE ALLEGED POLITICAL PECCADILLOS OF FORMER PRIME MINISTER GOUGH WHITLAM RANGED ACROSS THE FRONT PAGES OF THE PRESS AND HIGHLIGHTED RADIO AND TV REPORTAGE WITH DATELINES FROM LONDON, SINGAPORE AND NEW YORK. THE SHOWDOWN IS SLATED FOR FRIDAY WHEN THE LABOUR PARTY MEETS TO EVALUATE THE CHARGES AND MAKE A DECISION ON WHITLAM'S FUTURE ROLE AS PARTY LEADER.

SHARING THE BACK PAGES WERE ELECTION RESULTS, PATTY HEARST AND PRESIDENT FORD'S DECISION TO DISCONTINUE THE TERM "DETENTE". THE LATTER EVOKED STRONG EDITORIAL SUPPORT FROM THREE OF THE NATION'S MAJOR DAILIES.

PROGRAM:

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DROPOUTS -- USIS AND THE PROMOTERS OF THE ADELAIDE FESTIVAL

OF ARTS AND OF THE SYDNEY BICENTENNIAL FESTIVAL, WITH WHOM WE HAVE BEEN WORKING IN EITHER FINANCING OF FACILITATING AMERICAN ARTISTIC PRESENCE, HAVE BEEN PLAGUED AND EMBARRASSED BY AMERICANS WHO HAD ACCEPTED INVITATIONS TO ATTEND AND SUBSEQUENTLY DROPPED OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE. SUSAN SONTAG AND KURT VONNEGUT, BOTH HAD ACCEPTED, THEN DECLINED, AAEF "DISTINGUISHED VISITOR" AWARDS, THE LATTER AFTER HIS PROGRAM HAD BEEN ANNOUNCED AND TICKETS SOLD. ONLY TWO DAYS AGO, TENNESSEE WILLIAMS DROPPED OUT AT THE LAST MOMENT, AND TODAY WE LEARNED THAT JAMES BALDWIN, WHO HAD AGREED TO COME, WON'T COME.

HOWEVER, OFFICIAL AMERICAN PRESENCE WILL STILL OCCUR. JAMES MICHENER (NOT IN ADELAIDE) AND THE CONTEMPORARY CHAMBER ENSEMBLE IN BOTH SYDNEY AND ADELAIDE. COMPOSER GEORGE CRUMB, WHO WORKS WILL BE PREMIERED IN ADELAIDE, IS AN AMSPEC, AND AMSPEC ROBERT CREELEY WILL APPEAR IN SYDNEY. THE MERC CUNNINGHAM DANCE COMPANY WILL APPEAR AT ADELAIDE, CANBERRA AND SYDNEY. AND WE ARE GRATEFUL TO THE WHITE HOUSE, OF COURSE, FOR THE BIG STAR OF THE SYDNEY BICENTENNIAL FESTIVITIES, VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER.

MOUNT

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SUMMARIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 MAR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976CANBER01714
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760082-0419
From: CANBERRA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760396/aaaadgsu.tel
Line Count: 83
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION CU
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 13 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 JUL 2004 by fisherem>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2004 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EQUENTLY DROPPED OUT AT THE LAST MINUTE. SUSAN SONTAG AND KURT VONNEGUT, BOTH HAD ACCEPTED, THEN DECLINED, AAEF
TAGS: PFOR, AS
To: USIA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006